

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended):           A system for protecting the lower portion of a garbage can, said system comprising:

          a garbage can having a wall and a flat bottom surface; and

          a boot having a base with a plurality of vertically rising sides, each side connected to an adjacent side, said sides and base forming a void sized and contoured to snugly fit upon the bottom portion of said garbage can;

said base and sides of the boot conforming to and being flush with the wall and flat bottom surface of said garbage can;

          wherein the boot is removably attached to the bottom portion of said garbage can, and wherein when the boot is positioned on the bottom portion of said garbage can the garbage can and boot may be tilted.

Claim 2 (original):    The system for protecting the lower portion of a garbage can of claim 1, wherein:

          said garbage can is a slim jim; and

          said boot removably attaches to the bottom portion of the slim jim without interfering with the normal operation of the slim jim.

Claim 3 (original): The system for protecting the lower portion of a garbage can of claim 2 wherein said slim jim has a rectangular base.

Claim 4 (original): The system for protecting the lower portion of a garbage can of claim 3, wherein said base has a central vertical hole, such that the base forms a supporting shelf extending inward from said sides.

Claim 5 (original): The system for protecting the lower portion of a garbage can of claim 4, wherein the boot is of non-metallic construction.

Claim 6 (original): The system for protecting the lower portion of a garbage can of claim 5, wherein said boot is constructed of molded plastic.

Claim 7 (original): The system for protecting the lower portion of a garbage can of claim 6, wherein said boot is made of ceramic plastic.

Claim 8 (original): The system for protecting the lower portion of a garbage can of claim 5, wherein said boot is constructed of molded rubber.

Claim 9 (original): The system for protecting the lower portion of a garbage can of claim 2, wherein said base has a central vertical hole, such that the base forms a shelf extending inward from said sides to support the slim jim bottom.

Claim 10 (original): The system for protecting the lower portion of a garbage can of claim 9, wherein the boot is of non-metallic construction.

Claim 11 (original): The system for protecting the lower portion of a garbage can of claim 10, wherein said boot is constructed of molded plastic.

Claim 12 (original): The system for protecting the lower portion of a garbage can of claim 11, wherein said boot is made of ceramic plastic.

Claim 13 (original): The system for protecting the lower portion of a garbage can of claim 10, wherein the boot is constructed of rubber.

Claim 14 (original): The system for protecting the lower portion of a garbage can of claim 1, wherein the sides of said boot extend vertically, from the bottom of the juncture of the base and the sides to the top of the sides, at least two inches.

Claim 15 (original): The system for protecting the lower portion of a garbage can of claim 2, wherein the sides of said boot extend vertically from the bottom of the juncture of the base and the sides to the top of the sides approximately six inches.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A boot to protect the bottom portion of tall narrow garbage can having a flat bottom surface and a wall, the boot comprising:

a boot having a base with a plurality of vertically rising sides, each side connected to an adjacent side, said walls and base forming a void sized and contoured to snugly fit upon the bottom portion of said garbage can; and

said vertically rising sides forming a plurality of exterior corners with said base, wherein at least one of the exterior corners is rounded;

said base and sides of the boot conforming to and being flush with the wall and flat bottom surface of said garbage can;

wherein the boot is removably attached to the bottom portion of said garbage can, and wherein when the boot is positioned on the bottom portion of said garbage can, the garbage can and boot may be tilted.

Claim 17 (original): The boot of claim 16 wherein:

said boot has four sides to fit a four-sided slim jim; and  
said boot is non-metallic.

Claim 18 (original): The boot of claim 17 wherein:

said boot is constructed of ceramic plastic;  
the sides of said boot extend vertically, from the bottom of the exterior juncture of the base  
and the sides to the top of the sides, approximately six inches.

Claim 19 (original): The boot of claim 18, wherein said base has a central vertical hole, such that  
the base forms a supporting shelf extending inward from said sides.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A boot to protect the bottom portion of tall narrow garbage can  
having a flat bottom surface and a wall, the boot comprising:

a boot having a base with a plurality of vertically rising sides, each side connected to an  
adjacent side, said walls and base forming a void sized and contoured to snugly fit upon the bottom  
portion of ~~a slim jim~~ said garbage can;

said base having a central vertical hole such that the base forms a supporting shelf extending  
inward from said sides;

said base and sides of the boot conforming to and being flush with the wall and flat bottom  
surface of said garbage can; and

said boot having a set of parallel wheels mounted on the same axial plane with said wheels being mounted within recesses in the sides of the boot in such a manner as to allow the wheels to engage the floor when the boot is tipped;

whereby the boot is removably attached to the bottom portion of ~~said slim jim~~ said garbage can without interfering with the normal operation of the ~~slim jim garbage can~~, and wherein when the boot is positioned on the bottom portion of said garbage can, the garbage can and boot may be tilted.[:]